

# British Unity Army, Navy, Air Command

Three Services Placed  
Under A. V. Alexander  
as Minister of Defense

Attlee Makes Some  
Changes in Cabinet

Drops Three Officials,  
Brings 5 Younger Men  
Into His Government

By Don Cook

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LONDON, Oct. 4.—Prime Minister Attlee reshuffled his Cabinet today, the first time since the Labor government took office five months ago, and at the same time. White Paper announced that the three services of the armed forces will be co-ordinated under a single Ministry of Defense headed by A. V. Alexander. The revision of the central organization for Britain's defense is similar to the one advocated by high officials of the United States Army and strongly opposed by the Navy several months ago.

The White Paper announced that Parliament, when it reconvenes next week, will be asked to create the new post of Minister of Defense and that the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretaries of State for War and Air will lose their status as Cabinet members, although continuing to function as heads of their respective services under the Defense Ministry.

## New Ministry's Functions

The functions of the new Defense Minister will include:

1. Apportionment in broad outline of available resources among the three services, including the framing of a general policy for research and development and the correlation of production programs.
2. Settlement of questions of general administration when a common policy for the three services is required.
3. Administration of interservice organizations such as com-

missioning his Cabinet, the most criticism has been leveled—Lord Winster, Minister of Civil Aviation; Viscount Stansgate, Secretary of State for Air, and J. J. Lawson, Secretary of State for War—and shifted other weak Cabinet ministers to jobs they will be better able to handle. Five junior appointments will bring new young men into Labor government circles—a point of criticism from the Labor back bench in Parliament ever since the first Cabinet slate was announced.

## Other Cabinet Changes

At the top of the new appointment list was Alexander, at present First Lord of the Admiralty, who was named Minister Without Portfolio as a preliminary to taking over the new Ministry of Defense after it is created by legislation.

Other Cabinet changes were:

**FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY**—George H. Hall, who has been Colonial Secretary, replaces Alexander.  
**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AIR**—Philip Noel-Baker, who

in replacing Lord Winster as Lord Nathan at the Civil Aviation Ministry. Attlee's move will strengthen the weakest point in the entire ministerial line-up. Winster has been neither forceful nor even particularly well informed in the civil aviation field, and with supervision of three new government aviation corporations now added to the minister's tasks a change was almost imperative.

## Confidence in Alexander

Alexander's promotion reflects Attlee's increased confidence in the former First Lord of the Admiralty, who not only served on the Labor Cabinet mission to India but has been carrying a considerable burden of work at the Paris peace conference, where he has deputized for Ernest Bevin, leader of the British delegation during most of the proceedings.

The shifts in the three key ministries all rate as improvements in the existing set-up, and none of the new appointments can be regarded as outstanding.

Lawson, at the War Office, has not been up to the task, physically or administratively. Bellenger, who replaced him, is younger and has made a name for himself as the War Office financial secretary.

At the Air Ministry, Alexander has been regarded as a doubtful, if not a firm administrator, although he certainly has had the confidence of the Cabinet in his negotiations for a new treaty.

In shifting Noel-Baker to the Air Ministry Attlee has brought in a younger man, and at the same time cleared the way for Hector McNeill to take over as Minister of State.

In naming Hall as First Lord of the Admiralty Attlee has kept in the government an old and respected trade unionist, and at the same time cleared the way for a younger man to take over the Colonial Office, which increasingly is a focal point for Labor government policy. The primary criticism of Hall has been that he was not vigorous or forceful enough in his pursuit of colonial liberalism. Jones, who takes over in that post, has both youth and fifteen months of Colonial Office experience on his side.

The Prime Minister recommended Hall for a reappointment.

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR**—Frederick John Bellenger, who has been financial secretary in the War Office, replaces Lawson, who is retiring because of ill health.

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COLONIES**—Arthur Creech Jones, who has been parliamentary secretary in the Colonial Office, replaces Hall.

**MINISTER OF STATE**—Hector McNeill, who has been Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's parliamentary secretary, replaces Noel-Baker.

**MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION**—Lord Nathan, who has been leader of the London County Council, replaces Lord Winster, who was appointed Governor General of Cyprus.

## Junior Appointments

The junior appointments—as parliamentary secretaries—were announced as follows: Major Christopher Mayhew, Foreign Office; Ivor Thomas, Colonial Office; Lord Pakenham and Major John Freeman, War Office; George S. Lindgren, Air Ministry; and Thomas Steele, National Insurance Ministry.

The Labor Cabinet, in general, emerges strengthened by the shifts, which have at last taken

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# BRITISH PRESS SOLID FOR DEFENSE SHIFT

Little Trouble Is Forecast in Parliament on Creation of Coordinating Ministry

By CLIFTON DANIEL

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
LONDON, Oct. 5.—Today's national press gave unanimous endorsement to the new central organization for defense, which the Labor Government proposed in a White Paper yesterday and which will be presented to the forthcoming session of Parliament for enactment into law.

The approval of the press foreshadowed that with little of the controversy that has marked a similar transition in the United States the defense organization scheme would be put into effect. Albert V. Alexander, who was transferred from the Admiralty for that purpose yesterday, will become head of the Ministry of Defense which the White Paper pro-

posed. The American defense forces, is that it retains separate identities of the three service Ministries while creating machinery "to formulate a united defense policy for the three services," which the White Paper says was a notable lack of the inter-war years.

The White Paper said: "These proposals do not involve any drastic break with the past; they are rather designed to carry a stage further the process of steady evolution through which our central organization for defense has developed during the past forty years—particularly during the five years of war under Winston Churchill.

## Amalgamation Decided Against

The Government specifically decided against the amalgamation of the three fighting services, although that may be desirable later, and against the creation of a combined general staff, because such a scheme served Germany poorly during the war.

Stress was laid instead upon retaining the Chiefs of Staff system that proved so successful in collaboration with the Americans.

In a historical review the White Paper recalled that the committee of Imperial Defense was established as an advisory body in 1904, with the Prime Minister as chairman. The Chiefs of Staff Committee came into being in 1924. When Churchill became Prime Minister

he assumed the title of Minister of Defense and two parallel defense committees, one for operations and one for supply, were created, with him as chairman.

At the same time the Chiefs of Staff became the authority for issuing unified operational instructions and strategical guidance, while the service department continued with the daily administration of the armed services. No Ministry of Defense was created.

## Details of Functioning

The White Paper now proposes the following:

(A) The Prime Minister will retain supreme responsibility for defense.

(B) The Defense Committee, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, will take over the functions of the old Committee of Imperial Defense and will be responsible to the Cabinet both for the review of current strategy and for coordinating departmental action in preparation for war.

(C) A new post of Minister of Defense, with a Ministry, will be created. The Minister will be responsible to Parliament for certain subjects . . . affecting the three services and their supply. In addition he will be deputy chairman of the Defense Committee; and he will also preside over meetings with the

Chiefs of Staff whenever he or they may so desire.

(D) The Chiefs of Staff Committee will remain responsible for preparing strategic appreciations (as transmitted) and military plans, and for submitting them to the Defense Committee, and the joint staff system will be retained and developed under their direction.

(E) The service Ministers will continue to be responsible to Parliament for the administration of their services in accordance with general policy approved by the Cabinet and within the resources allotted to them.

A comparable scheme in the United States would be for the President, as Commander in Chief, to have a deputy of Cabinet rank who would have a certain overriding responsibility for the broader lines of defense policy.

## Defense Committee Members

The regular members of the British Defense Committee will be the Prime Minister, the Lord President of the Council, the Defense Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Ministers of Labor and Supply, with the Chiefs of Staff in attendance.

The Defense Minister, in addition, will be responsible for the defense of the United Kingdom, and will be responsible for the defense of the Empire.

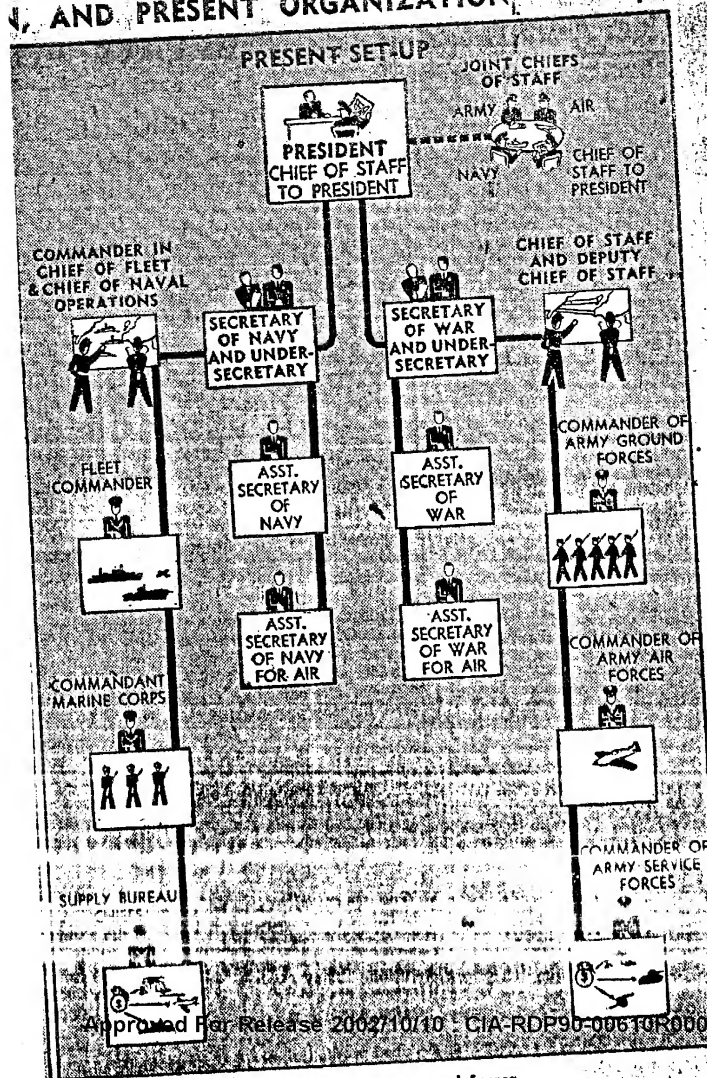
ice organizations, such as Combined Operations, (Command) Headquarters and the Joint Intelligence Bureau.

A committee on defense research policy, with a scientist at its head, will deal with the scientific aspects of war under the Defense Minister.

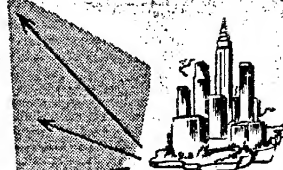
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### PROPOSED SET-UP

